1	2	3	4	5	6
2007-08	Southern	Tamil Nadu	1	11	11
	North Eastern	Uttar Pradesh	1	3	9
TOTAL			2	14	20
2008-09 (Upto 13.02.09)	South East Central	Maharashtra	1	0	6
	Northern	Punjab	1	3	13
TOTAL			2	3	19

(b) No such percentage is targeted. However, as on 01.01.2009, out of approximately 17,580 Nos. unmanned level crossings on Indian Railways, 1286 Nos. qualify criteria for manning. All these are likely to be manned in next five years.

(c) Trials to give audio visual warning to road users providing Train Actuated Warning Device at gates have been done in recent past. But, these trials have not been found successful. It has been decided recently to conduct experimental trials of radio based Gate Warning System on Northern Railway.

Change in name of Nanded station

688. SARDAR TARLOCHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the name of Nanded railway station in Maharashtra has been changed as Hazoor Saheb Nanded;

(b) if so, since when; and

(c) if not, how long it would take?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Instructions have since been issued for renaming of 'Nanded' railway station as 'Hazur Sahib Nanded' railway station.

Ticket booking service in rural areas

†689.SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has introduced railway ticket booking service in rural areas also;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether there is any provision under said scheme to provide agencies to the unemployed youths of rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A scheme to appoint Gramin Ticket Booking Sewaks (GTBSs) at roadside stations excluding contractor-operated halts, where the ticket booking arrangements was not satisfactory, was launched on East Central Railway in the year 2006. At present, the scheme of GTBS is operative at 13 stations only.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) The scheme provides the opportunity to unemployed youths to get agency for selling unreserved tickets. However, there is no specific quota in the scheme for unemployed youths.

Electrification of New Jalpaiguri railway line

†690.SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating to electrify the New Jalpaiguri railway line;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the work on this project is likely to be started and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) New Jalpaiguri railway station falls on Barauni-Katihar-Guwahati rail line. Electrification of Barauni-Katihar-Guwahati section has been sanctioned at a cost of Rs.821.53 crore. Electrification work has been started in Barauni-Katihar section from January 2009. The entire section is targeted for completion by March, 2012.

Rail accident at unmanned crossing near Moga in Punjab

691. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a school bus with school children travelling therein met with an accident with a rail engine on an unmanned crossing near Moga in Punjab, recently;

(b) if so, the number of children who lost their lives and those seriously injured in the mishap; and

(c) the extent of ex-gratia payment made by the Railways, if any, to the parents of the children killed and injured?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On 02.02.2009 at 08.20 hours, one school van dashed against Diesel Light Engine at Unmanned Level Crossing No. 71-C between Firozeshah-Talwandi stations near Moga on Firozepur Division of Northern Railway. This accident resulted into death of 3 children, grievous injuries to 6 children and simple injuries to 7 children.

(c) As the accident at the unmanned level crossing near Moga has happened due to carelessness of the Bus driver, no ex-gratia has been paid to the parents of those dead and injured children.

Rail-road over/under bridges in Himachal Pradesh

692. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposed rail-road over/under bridges in Himachal Pradesh pending for sanction; and

(b) the time by when these projects are likely to be sanctioned and the details of the funds allocated for these projects?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.